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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
MITSUHIRO ITO, et al.) Group Art Unit: 2852
:)
Application No.: 10/609,469)
:)
Filed: July 1, 2003)
:)
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS) October 1, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,835,818
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,266,151
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,496,660
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 6,539,184
- (5) Japan 8-320642
- (6) Japan 10-39691
- (7) Japan 2001-88370
- (8) Japan 2001-88406
- (9) Japan 2001-192132
- (10) Japan 2002-46876
- (11) Japan 2002-91102

Reference (11) is discussed in the specification at page 5, lines 18 to 24, reference (5) is discussed in the specification at page 7, lines 2 to 12, references (7) to (10) are discussed in the specification at page 9, line 24, to page 10, line 9, and reference (6) is discussed in the specification at page 33, line 20, to page 34, line 2. These references might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein.

An English-language abstract for each of the above-listed Japanese documents has been located and is enclosed. In addition, reference (1) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to reference (6), reference (2) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to references (7) and (8), and reference (3) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to reference (10).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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